

# MINUTES

## City of Guadalupe Regular Meeting of the Guadalupe City Council Tuesday, September 24, 2024, at 6:00 pm City Hall, 918 Obispo Street, Council Chambers

### 1. ROLL CALL:

Council Member Christina Hernandez  
Council Member Gilbert Robles  
Council Member Whitney Furness  
Mayor Pro Tempore Eugene Costa Jr.  
Mayor Ariston Julian

*Mayor Julian called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. All were present. (Note: The abbreviation, "CM" for "Council Member", will be used in these minutes.)*

### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### 3. MOMENT OF THANKS, APPRECIATION OR CONDOLENCES.

*CM Costa, Jr. mentioned the passing of Mr. Tom Moore whose daughter goes to school here. He also mentioned the passing of Mr. Roger Sanchez, Sr. His brother, Herb, was a prior council member.*

*Mayor Julian said that Mr. Ernie DeGasparis had recently passed. He was a long-time resident and attorney. Condolences to his family and friends.*

### 4. AGENDA REVIEW

*There were no changes to the agenda.*

### 5. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION FORUM

*There were no requests to speak and no emails received.*

### 6. CONSENT CALENDAR (A-E)

**A.** Waive the reading in full of all Ordinances and Resolutions. Ordinances on the Consent Calendar will be adopted by the same vote cast as the first meeting unless City Council indicates otherwise.

**B.** Approve payment of warrants for the period ending September 13, 2024.

- C. Approve the Minutes of the City Council regular meeting of September 10, 2024.
- D. Adopt Resolution No. 2024-56 authorizing the Fire Department to accept the Cal Fire Volunteer Fire Capacity Grant in the amount of \$3,775.29 for portable fire radios and accessories.
- E. Adopt Resolution No. 2024-57 authorizing the Mayor to sign an easement deed to Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) to allow service to the new electric vehicle charging station.

*No items were pulled.* **Motion was made by Council Member Furness and seconded by Council Member Robles to approve the full Consent Calendar. 5-0 Motion passed.**

## **MANAGEMENT REPORTS**

### **7. CITY ADMINISTRATOR: *(Information Only)***

A. City Administrator's report for September 24, 2024

*Mr. Bodem spoke briefly on the following items:*

*-Mary Buren Traffic: a meeting was held outside Mary Buren Elementary on September 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss traffic solutions relating to traffic issues during morning school opening. Painting double yellow lines on Peralta between 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Streets to mitigate U-turns and having crossing guards were the outcomes of the meeting. Further monitoring will occur. It was heard that people are still making U-turns there.*

*-Two impact fees public meetings were held recently: 1) September 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss process to implement the public safety fees, and 2) September 19<sup>th</sup>, the City Administrator met with Wilden, the company that conducted the fee study, to determine if another study can be done at a reasonable price for other departments potentially impacted by future growth.*

*-Whale Tail Grant: the City applied for this grant with a maximum award of \$50,000, with no match required. This grant focuses on projects that connect people to the California Coast and its watersheds. More information to follow.*

*It was mentioned that there was an odor (wet flowers) at the cannabis plant but that the plant has its hands tied. CM Robles said, "It's not as bad as when they initially opened." A question was asked about the newly opened cannabis retail store and any odor issues. Chief Cash said that there were no odor issues.*

*CM Hernandez asked, "The Guadalupe Preserve sign says it's closed. Is it open or closed?" Mr. Bodem said he'd check on it. Mayor Julian said, "The road to the dunes needs to be scraped." Chief Cash said that sand is being moved there. CM Robles then asked, "Is the sign in the County or the City? The sign by the cemetery?" Mr. Bodem said he'd take some pictures to check it out further.*

*-Water Storage Tanks: the tanks have an inch of sediment that needs to be scrubbed off due to lack of timely cleaning and inspection. Repairs need to be done due to corrosion. There is a significant cost for coating of the tanks.*

*-Hwy166/Black Road Project: with the completion of the signalization project, there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. Parking will occur on the north side of the highway (cooler side) and should last about 30 minutes. This project should enhance traffic flow and safety in the area. The \$2.53 million project is fully funded by Measure A, Santa Barbara County's transportation sales tax. The completion of this project has been long awaited.*

**8. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY: (Information Only)**

**A. Director of Public Safety report for September 24, 2024**

*Chief Cash reported the following:*

*-Staffing in the Police Department is below minimum as far as those in the field. Administration is doing field work.*

*-Fiesta Patrias Parade Critique: the parade held on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, will be reviewed in a meeting to be scheduled for more refined preparations for next year. We had some hiccups. There were vendors who wanted to come after streets were closed.*

*-Kiwanis Christmas Parade: paperwork was received and I will work with Recreation & Parks for some written guidelines on how paperwork is to be processed, so we're not caught "at the last minute".*

*-Cares 4 Paws: on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, about 40 residents brought their pets in for necessary care. Location was out by the Fire Department. It was a very successful event.*

*-Root 1 Cannabis Dispensary: an inspection was completed. I went through and checked all cameras. Fire and PD did the walk through, as well. It was reported that two (2) other of their facilities were broken into and robbed. Some other security measures were handled to make sure that our facility is well secured. They volunteered to put monitor/cameras in the Police Department and on the Chief's phone. I have 24-hour access. All things went smoothly. It was nice to see people there during the soft opening.*

*-Homicide suspect from Santa Maria reported as armed and dangerous. It was on Facebook page where you saw the Sheriff's Department and the Santa Maria PD come into town and mobilize at McKenzie Middle School. We only had one (1) officer working, looking for a wanted shooting homicide suspect...supposedly hiding out here in Guadalupe. I was notified of the actions. They went and searched the house, but he was not there.*

*-Two officers were on duty checking an unhoused encampment that was on county property. A citizen by Paco Park called to report that someone was "calling for help" behind Paco Park. At least three (3) unhoused subjects were found living in the river bottom area of the county. Fire also responded. Camp fire and drugs were found at the site. Subjects were removed from the location.*

*-Mr. Joe Talaugon: police and fire staff are working with the family regarding the funeral and procession on Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. Over 200 people are expected. Chief is trying to work out logistics with traffic.*

*-Public Safety Impact Fees: Roll out date is about 30 days out. There will be a communication notification process. Mr. Bodem will draft some language.*

*-School Traffic Safety Meeting: after meeting with school officials, it was decided to strip the center street of 1000 Peralta to deter illegal U-turns. Little improvement has been shown on illegal U-turn activity at this location. Talked with CM Costa, Jr. We need to think of other ways to deal with this issue.*

*-RFCC Coordination Committee for the Fire Dispatch Center is finalizing the costs for each city. That will be broken out by calls for service. We're working with them to see what Guadalupe's costs will possibly be.*

*-Attended the Santa Barbara County Emergency Managers meeting. We have to finalize what's going to be in the flood map for Santa Barbara County. Le Roy Park is in the flood zone. That will be covered, worst case scenario, after we approve that map...insurance and so forth."*

*Mayor Julian said, "Ten years ago, FEMA said that Pioneer Street should be included in the flood zone. I don't know if they're contemplating putting that in the flood zone now." Chief Cash said, "Right now, it's not in the zone. I have to find time to get with them. They're pressing to get it done. We're still working on this. We're trying to separate what's the City's responsibility and what's the County's responsibility. There's new county-wide evacuation software, Genesis. I'm being trained now to do mapping. I have to input all emergency and resource phone numbers in this county-wide system. I'm looking for back-up if I can't do the flood evacuation maps.*

*-On October 4<sup>th</sup>, there will be the first meeting of the CA League of Cities where Chief is the CA Police Chiefs Association Representative on the Advancing Equity Advisory Committee.*

*The mayor asked, "Are these zoom or in-person meetings?" Chief Cash said, "Everyone is trying to get away from zoom meetings unless out of the local area. I have four (4) meetings tomorrow which I can't attend because we're going to do the public safety impact fees which is more important. There's a zoom meeting at 8:00 a.m. with Marian Hospital Community Board of Directors. Some zoom meetings I can do in my car."*

*Mayor Julian..."It's kind of an oxymoron with patrolling and having our staffing levels below minimum. I know that you actually patrol yourself. Having to go to a lot of these meetings takes you away...I'm sure you won't leave our city uncovered." Chief Cash said, "Lieutenant Limon works and I'm his back-up. We also have an agreement with Santa Maria PD and the Sheriff's Office." They mayor added, "...as long as we're staffed."*

*CM Hernandez asked City Attorney Sinco, "Are there restrictions on operating hours for the retail cannabis shop?" City Attorney Sinco said, "it has to do with their permit that was issued. I think they're ready to open, so they can have reduced hours." Mayor Julian then said, "It was a soft opening to get the staff trained and ready. I think in the middle of October they're going to fully open it." City Attorney Sinco added, "They have to initiate their permit under our code by December 1<sup>st</sup>, I think...it's in December. That would require either obtaining an issuance of a certificate of occupancy. I don't know if they received that or not... or opening the doors. So, they have a little time to comply with the ordinance." CM Hernandez then asked, "Before they can fully open?" City Attorney Sinco said, "No, they have to open or their permit will be subject to revocation."*

*CM Hernandez then asked, "The safety barriers that were used for the parade on Guadalupe Street. They're still out there on the street." Mr. Bodem said, "They're gone as of today."*

Another question from CM Hernandez, "County property here near Guadalupe. If 911 is called, who responds? Who provides services?" Chief Cash said, "Calls go to the Sheriff's and are routed to Guadalupe. The park rangers lock the entrance to the dunes. Guadalupe PD has the key to open. If it's an emergency, whoever is closest will respond."

- B. Police Department report for August 2024
- C. Fire Department report for August 2024
- D. Code Compliance report for August 2024

## **REGULAR BUSINESS**

### **9. Wastewater Treatment Plant Biolac System Repair.**

Written report: Jeff van den Eikhof, City Engineer

Recommendation: That the City Council adopt Resolution No. 2024-58 authorizing the Mayor to sign an agreement for contractor services with Coombs Service Group for the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Biolac Repair Project.

*Mr. van den Eikhof gave a brief background on this item also saying that Item #10 is inter-related to this item.*

*The Biolac system hasn't been maintained on a regular/interval basis. As a result, it's worn out quicker than it should have. The ponds have to be dredged and should be on a more frequent basis. Coombs Service Group is the only company in California that can service this unit. It doesn't have to go through the regular bid process now.*

*Right now, we're having to work around the Biolac system, and it's put us in a bind with the Water Board. We're not meeting Water Board permit requirements." Mayor Julian asked, "When will this start, if approved?" Mr. van den Eikhof said, "Both of these companies have to coordinate their services. I would assume within the next 2-3 months."*

*CM Furness asked, "Is Coombs the only source? What about outside California? Would that be cost prohibitive? Where is Coombs located?" Mr. van den Eikhof said, "They're in Irvine." CM Furness then said, "I'm just worried that by going with them as the sole source, it might put us in a bind. Are we stuck with that system?" Mr. van den Eikhof said, "It's a proprietary system that the City chose. It's not unusual. There are smaller plants like ours that use the exact same system. It's cost efficient. If we go to another system, it's very cost prohibitive for a city our size. It'd be very, very expensive." CM Furness then asked, "Other cities that have the same system. Do they use Coombs to service it?" Mr. van den Eikhof said, "Yes, other cities do use Coombs. If the system is maintained well, they don't have to do work on it very often." CM Furness also asked, "How do we prevent that in the future?" Mr. van den Eikhof said, "It will be dredged."*

*Mayor Julian asked other council members if they've been at the treatment plant. Some members had been out to the plant. CM Costa, Jr. asked, "How old is the system?" Dave Miklas, Supervisor, said, "2012. The reason we have to dredge is that there's a lot of grit at the bottom, which is like sand and eggshells going down the sink. There's a grit removal system that we're working and planning on putting back online...it's not online yet. It was taken off-line in 2000. When they did the*

*upgrade and put the Biolac system in, they upgraded the influent system. Rags that were shredded would clog up the grit pump, so it had to be torn apart and then decided not to use it. They never started using it again. So, that's getting fixed and should take care of the problem for the future."*

*CM Hernandez asked, "How frequent should they be dredged?" Mr. van den Eikhof said, "If the grit system is on board, there won't be a need." Mr. Miklas said, "It's taken 10 years to get to this point."*

**Motion was made by Council Member Costa, Jr. and seconded by Council Member Hernandez to adopt Resolution No. 2024-58 approving and authorizing the Mayor to sign an agreement for contractor services with Coombs Service Group for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Biolac Repair Project. Roll Call: Ayes: 5 Nos: 0 5-0 Motion passed.**

#### **10. Wastewater Treatment Plant Sludge Removal for Biolac System.**

Written report: Jeff van den Eikhof, City Engineer

Recommendation: That the City Council adopt Resolution No. 2024-59 authorizing the Mayor to sign an agreement for contractor services with MidCal Dredging, Inc. for sludge removal.

*As Mr. van den Eikhof previously stated, this item is inter-related to Item #9. Formal bids were solicited for the Sludge Removal Project. No bids were received. The City's Municipal Code allows to procure directly if there are no bids received from the formal bid process. A proposal was solicited and received from MidCal Dredging, Inc. for \$182,900.*

*CM Furness asked, "MidCal Dredging. Where are they located?" Mr. van den Eikhof said that the company is located in Fresno. CM Furness then asked, "The staff report says that the Wastewater Treatment Plant Capital Improvement fund will pay for this?" Ms. Davis, Finance Director, said, "We put aside \$1.8M for these improvements." Mr. van den Eikhof added, "The \$1.8M was for Hwy 1 lift station. We reallocated the monies for any improvements."*

*CM Furness then asked, "Do we have more funds to do any other further improvements?" Mr. van den Eikhof said, "The costs for both of these improvements is around \$400,000. So, yes, there's money available for other improvements needed." CM Furness asked if the dredging of the system will have any off-line effect on residents. Mr. van den Eikhof said, "No, there's no impact on our residents during these improvements."*

**Motion was made by Council Member Costa, Jr. and seconded by Council Member Hernandez to adopt Resolution No. 2024-59 approving and authorizing the Mayor to sign an agreement for contractor services with MidCal Dredging, Inc. for sludge removal. Roll Call: Ayes: 5 Nos: 0 5-0 Motion passed.**

*Mayor Julian said, "Last night I saw the Chicago River with pollution. Their wastewater treatment system is just massive. We have 8,700 people or so. But you look at Chicago and big cities with millions and millions of dollars of equipment. It's always been an issue, our sewer plant. I know we were talking before about regionalization of the sewer system. It'd be nice to have something where we won't have to deal with too much. The maintenance of these plants is expensive.*

**11. Request by Janet McGee, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/President and the Board of Trustees Allan Hancock College, to waive rental fees for use of the Senior Center.**

Written request: Annis Barajas, Recreation Services Manager

Recommendation: That the City Council approve the request by Janet McGee to waive the hourly fees for the use of the Senior Center on October 15, 2024, for their Board of Trustees regular meeting.

*Ms. Barajas gave a brief background on this item. The Allan Hancock College Board of Trustees did a tour of our rental facilities to see if one would accommodate their meeting. They decided on the Senior Center.*

*Based on the fee waiver, the hourly fee waiver, the total fee of \$220 can be waived. The total rental costs are \$570 less \$220 waived = \$350. (The \$50 lock-in fee to reserve the date is not waived.) CM Furness asked if staff time was involved. Ms. Barajas said, "From 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., within business hours. Outside business hours is \$10 higher. A building attendant will be needed. That cost is not waived.*

*Mayor Julian said, "There's no problem renting to them. These fee waivers should not come to the Council. These should be an administrative fee waiver." Mr. Bodem said, "It might make more sense. Annis can draft a staff report. If the total fees to be waived are \$600.00 or less, they can be waived internally. Otherwise, the request goes to the Council."*

*CM Hernandez said, "We should have a strong relationship with Hancock." The mayor said, "They were using the council chambers before. We always support Hancock."*

*CM Furness said, "Todd should be making decision on the waiver." Mr. Bodem said, "Yes, if \$600.00 or less, it shouldn't go to the Council." CM Furness then asked, "Are our fees on par with others for renting facilities?" Ms. Barajas said, "We have the least expensive fees than elsewhere." Mayor Julian said, "We need to bring the policy back for the Council and Administration to review."*

*Prior to the motion being made, CM Hernandez asked City Attorney Sinco, "I'm on Hancock Foundation Board. Can I vote on this?" City Attorney Sinco said she could vote.*

**Motion was made by Council Member Furness and seconded by Council Member Hernandez to waive the hourly fees for the use of the Senior Center on October 15<sup>th</sup> for their Board of Trustees Regular Meeting. 5-0 Motion passed.**

**12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

*Draft policy on waiving facility rental fees. – No date mentioned.*

**13. ANNOUNCEMENTS – COUNCIL ACTIVITY/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*CM Costa, Jr. – I attended the Law Enforcement Officer Appreciation Dinner at the Elks on Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. Others attending were Todd, City Treasurer, City Clerk and Chief Cash.*

*Our officer to be recognized, Michael Kuhbander, was sick and did not attend. Overall, there were 10 recipients recognized from the various law enforcement agencies in our local area.*

*Mayor Julian – this past Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, the Veterans Memorial Plaza flagpole was re-dedicated, honoring Vietnam veterans killed in action in 1969. The names on the flagpole are Michael Peter Pagaling, Arturo Carasco, and Phillip Hernandez. The ceremony was well attended.*

*AARP Age Friendly Community Survey – this survey will be used to identify the needs of Guadalupe seniors. It will be in both English and Spanish. The target population is 45 years and older. The goal is 300 surveys. Normally, these surveys would go out online. However, the Senior Advisory Committee will be handling the distribution.*

*State Route 166 – ADA improvements south of the Santa Maria River Bridge to Route 166 to Obispo will occur in the summer of 2025. The project is \$12.9 million.*

*State Route 166 to Santa Maria – pavement and curb ramps will be placed in summer of 2026. The project is \$1.4 million.*


*State Route 1 Santa Maria River Bridge – replacement should be in summer of 2025. The project is \$33 million.*

*Black Road/Hwy 166 – signalization dedication is scheduled for Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. Parking will be on the cooler side of the highway, across from Black Road.*

#### **14. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion was made by Council Member Costa, Jr. and seconded by Council Member Furness. 5-0 Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.**

**Prepared by:**

  
Amelia M. Villegas, City Clerk

**Approved by:**

  
Ariston Julian, Mayor